An estimated 2.6 billion people (one-third of the world’s population) (WEF, 9 Apr 2020) in more than 100 countries have experienced some form of lockdown, movement restrictions or quarantine.

The Movement Control Order (MCO) in Malaysia was enforced on 18 March 2020, with the latest conditional MCO (CMCO) to end on 9 June 2020.

This Snapshot explores the various ways individuals have kept their spirits up during this time, facing adversity with creativity, warmth and humour, even as they continue their daily lives.

**A HUMAN FACE TO A HUMAN CRISIS**

SINGING THE BLUES AWAY

Creative Malaysians come up with COVID-19 inspired songs - from staying at home to expressing gratitude for front-liners (The Star, Apr 2020). DJ duo turns snippets of the Prime Minister’s speech into a dance track (The Star, Apr 2020).

**COOKING AND BAKING**

Malaysians tap into their culinary skills during MCO with users reporting that their social media feeds are “full of meals every day” (The Star; MalayMail; TheSunDaily). This accords with an increase of 800% sales in frying pan and wok, 250% in salt sales and 347% in gelatine powder sales (DigitallyAsiang, Apr 2020).

**KEEPING THE BODY ACTIVE INDOORS**

Studios offer free live classes (TheStar; MalayMail; SunDaily). Gyms rent out equipment. Individuals are creative in using household items as weights – a baby, wok, rice, etc (TheSmartLocal; MashableSEAsia). A Malaysian man managed to complete a 263km indoor-marathon within 36 hours. (MalayMail).

**INTERNATIONAL**

9-year old Italian boy builds COVID-19 inspired video game (The Star; Apr 2020).

**COVID-19 WEBCOMIC**

Tickling the funny bone - local cartoonist depicts the Malaysian fight against COVID-19 in an ongoing webcomic “Covid-19 Saga”. The latest instalment of the webcomic has garnered over 11,000 shares (MalayMail, Apr 2020).

**RAMADAN: SPREADING COMMUNAL JOY**

Muslim occupants of a People’s Housing Project (PPR) share their Ramadan cooking with each other over WhatsApp (The Star, Apr 2020). Mosques continue to distribute food by conducting food drive-throughs and direct delivery to households (MalayMail, Apr 2020).

**INTERNATIONAL**

9-year old Italian boy builds COVID-19 inspired video game (The Star; Apr 2020).

**QUIZ NIGHT**

Although pubs are shut in Britain, quiz parties are thriving online (Barron’s Apr 2020).

**INTERNATIONAL**

9-year old Italian boy builds COVID-19 inspired video game (The Star; Apr 2020).

**VIEWERSHIP OF “LOFI BEATS” YOUTUBE CHANNELS INCREASING RAPIDLY**

Viewership of “Lo-fi beats” Youtube channels increasing rapidly (TheVerge, Apr 2020).

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